Rules. Further, Ministry of Science & Technology and the Indian Council of Medical Research have also not received any request for support of the research project.

Effect of Insecticides on Vultures

*258. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware tnat due to increased use of insecticides, the number of vultures feasting on dead bodies of animals, particularly buffaloes, has decreased considerably all over the country;

(b) whether this fact has been confirmed by Dr. Anand R. Rehmani, President of the Faculty for Natural History;

(c) whether this fact was confirmed earlier also, by the Indian Council for Medical Research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Asad R. Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society authored a report about the decline in the population of vultures due to increased use of insecticides/pesticides.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council for Medical Research has informed that they can not comment regarding decrease in the number of vultures feasting on buffaloes since their organisation covers the area of research on effects of pesticides on human beings.

The Bombay Natural History Society's report states that high levels of chemicals and pesticides are affecting the vulture populations throughout the country. Food shortage caused due to efficient utilisation of carcasses could be also one of the reasons tor their decline. Presence of any avian disease is also not ruled out.

Lifting price control on Drug Industry

*259. SHRI SURESH KALMAD1: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic and multi-national pharma companies have demanded lifting of price control on the drug industry; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) The Pharmaceutical companies in the country — domestic and foreign, have been urging for relaxation of price controls on the drug industry. As announced by the Finance Minister in his speech of 27.2.1999 while presenting the Central Government's budget for 1999-2000, two high level Committees will be constituted inter alia to review the present drug policy so as to reduce the rigours of price control where they have become counter productive.

Pending cases in Environmental Courts

*260. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 480, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1999, and state the total number of cases pending, as on 31st December, 1998, State-wise, in Environmental Cousts/ Tribunals and the steps taken proposed to be taken to expedite speedy disposal of the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): The National Environment Appellate Authority was constituted under the National Environment Apellate Authority Act, 1997, There was no case pending with

this Authority as on 31.12.98. The National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 is yet to be constituted. The state-wise status of pending court cases as on 31.12.98 pertaining to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, according to information available with the Central Pollution Control Board, is given in the enclosed statement below. The legal capacity of the State Pollution Control Boards is being strengthened which will enable speedy disposal of cases.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of cases pending
1.	Assam	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*
3.	Andhra Pradesh	2
4.	Bihar	212
5.	Goa	*
6.	Gujarat	1747
7.	Haryana	460
8.	Himachal Pradesh	35
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	39
10.	Kerala	4
11.	Karnataka	85
12.	Maharashtra	120
13.	Madhya Pradesh	137
14.	Meghalaya	*
15.	Manipur	*
16.	Mizoram	*
17.	Nagaland	*
18.	Orissa	75
19.	Punjab	296
20.	Rajasthan	239
21.	Sikkim	*
22.	Tamil Nadu	140
23.	Tripura	*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	57
25.	West Bengal	2
26.	Chandigarh	*
27.	Delhi	1
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	*
29.	Daman, Diu & DNH	*
30.	Lakshadeep	*
31.	Pondichery	*
	Total Pending Cases	3651

*Information niil available.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

देश में उर्वरक का उत्पादन

1861. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी0 सोलंकी** : क्या **रसायन और उर्वरक** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में उर्वरक उत्पादन का वर्तमान स्तर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय उत्पादन स्तर की तुलना में क्या है तथा उसमें सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों की प्रतिशतता कितनी – कितनी है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने आगामी पांच वर्षो में होने वाले उत्पादन दर के प्रतिशत का आंकलन किया है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उर्वरक उत्पादन के वर्तमान स्तर में वृद्धि करने के लिए व्यापक पैमाने पर कोई दीर्घवधि योजना बनाई; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा0 ए0 के0 पटेल) : (क) भारत नाइट्रोजनयुक्त तथा फास्फेटिक उर्वरक का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है और नाइट्रोजन तथा फास्फेट के विश्व उत्पादन में इसका हिस्सा क्रमशः 9.4% और 7.6% है । देश में पोंटाशिक उर्वरकों के कोई ज्ञात स्रोत नही है और पोटासिक उर्वरकों की सम्पूर्ण आवश्यकता का आयात किया जाता है ।

वर्षा 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 के दौरान भारत की तुलना में विश्व में उर्वरक पोषकों का आयात और भारत